

Safety Committee Minutes: Wednesday, August 11, 2:00 PM Zoom

In attendance: Betsy Howe, Larry Harisis, Kay McClure-Kelly, Alfonso de Lara Aldalur, Kyle Broderick, Heidi Hillhouse, Mike Livingston, Nathan Palmer

1) Eye protection in the lab and field- Mike Livingston

Over the last year there has been a few incidents of personnel cutting their eyes on corn leaves. Mike indicated Safety glasses are readily available and continue to offer protection in both the field and lab and encourages others to employ their use.

2) Workplace Accidents: Reporting and contact information- Katelyn Rife

Mike reminded the group of the link on the webpage for accident injury reporting for faculty, students, and staff. Mike also reiterated the importance of reporting near miss incidents to possibly avoid future incidents. Elizabeth H indicated a better descriptive term on the Safety committee website link would be "Near Miss" as opposed to "Incident reporting". The subheadings in this group provide information on medical facilities and forms to be filed with UNL human resources.

3) Laboratory used consumables disposal and lab safety audit updates -Larry Harisis

Larry indicated that laboratory safety audits will resume in Biosafety designated laboratories. He also reiterated that one recurring incident that we must address is the disposal of pipette tips and the labelling of these waste receptacles. Larry indicated that hazardous waste containers must be closed unless actively filling. In the biosafety realm, these containers should be closed after each work session with biological materials. Larry indicated all radiation lab audits have been completed. Larry indicated all EHS personnel will be masked when conducting audits.

4) Reporting unsafe conditions and practices-Mike Livingston

On the A&H Safety Committee website Mike pointed out the anonymous suggestion box that allows personnel to submit questions or reports that come to him. Mike indicated that the general safety culture in the Department the reporting has been thru personnel interaction.

5) CUSC update. seasonal reminders and EHS digital signage availability from EHS- Betsy Howe

Betsy H. presented resources from the both EHS Listserv and the new digital signage available from the Chancellors University Safety Committee(CUSC). The new campaign of the CUSC is the "Plan Ahead" campaign. This has been implemented due to a prominent number of incidents/accidents are shown to have a component of not planning ahead before carrying out the intended activity. I.e. not employing proper PPE, having the right tool available etc. Kyle Broderick inquired about E-scooters on campus and Betsy H would make inquiries into geofencing, and the areas E-scooters are allowed.

6) Cryogenic safety protocols/dry ice/liquid nitrogen EHS SOP-Mike Livingston

Mike wanted to remind personnel that shipments containing dry ice should be left to sublimate in the original shipping containers in the open laboratories or placed in fume hoods. Dry ice can displace oxygen and should not be placed in enclosed spaces.

- 7) Upcoming training sessions: Fire Extinguisher, new lab orientation, TBD
Betsy indicated the web based training is an option for us and then she could provide the hands on training.

- 8) Covid-19 Fall expectations
Initial base line saliva testing required this week 8/15-8/22 for all without exemptions to testing.
Vaccinations available 8/25 and 8/26 on the plazas outside the Unions. Testing can be scheduled online for those without the App

- 9) New Business
No new business addressed.

- 10) Next Meeting
Wednesday, Oct 27, 1:00 pm
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://unl.zoom.us/j/98828028375?pwd=dDB4b3V4Um5uSUhNaXN2Y2lPc2ZvUT09>
Meeting ID: 988 2802 8375
Passcode: 396243